

PRESS RELEASE

Congressman John Conyers, Jr.

**Fourteenth District, Michigan
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary
Dean, Congressional Black Caucus**

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CONTACT:
Dena Graziano: (202) 226-6888

CONYERS BLASTS ADMINISTRATION'S ORDER BARRING UNION REPRESENTATION

Congressman John Conyers, Jr. (D-MI), Ranking Member of the House Judiciary Committee, issued the following statement in response to President Bush's issuance of an executive order barring union representation at United States attorneys' offices and at four other agencies in the Justice Department.

"In case there were any doubts, the Administration's recent ban on unions firmly demonstrates its unabashed willingness to exploit the terrorist attacks of September 11th in an effort to implement its anti-democratic agenda. From infringing upon civil liberties to tampering with a worker's right to freely enter into collective bargaining agreements, President Bush's executive order proves once and for all that he can not be trusted to honor his commitment to uphold and protect the Constitution of the United States, nor the rights it bestows upon its citizens."

"Mr. Bush's assertion that the order was issued out of concern that union contracts could restrict the ability of workers in the Justice Department to protect Americans and national security is blatantly disingenuous. The President is well aware that federal law already prohibits strikes by federal employees. Moreover, the order mainly covers secretaries, file clerks and messengers. I find it difficult to believe that the President could contend that these employees are on the "front line" when it comes to maintaining national security."

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